

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus, which is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network,

5 comprising:

communication means, for exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

10 display control means, for arranging said image processing apparatuses and for displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein said display control means assigns ranks for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user, and displays said
15 corresponding device data.

2. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means arranges said image processing
20 apparatuses in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display control means uses a
25 graph to display said device data.

4. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: condition selection means, for selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

5 wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on said condition selected by said condition selection means.

10 5. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: apparatus selection means, for selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed by said display control means,

15 wherein said display control means displays, on said display unit, device data for said image processing apparatus selected by said apparatus selection means.

20 6. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said device data are capacity data for said image processing apparatus.

25 7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the physical distance separating said information processing apparatus and each of said

image processing apparatuses.

8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the printing speed of each of said image processing apparatuses.

9. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the reliability of each of said image processing apparatuses.

10. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the number of paper jams that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

11. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the number of errors that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

12. An information processing apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on the printing cost incurred when using each of said image processing apparatuses.

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13. An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said printing cost is the cost per sheet output by each of said image processing apparatuses.

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14. An information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said printing cost is an initial cost or an operating cost for each of said image processing apparatuses.

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15. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on either the sales time, the purchase time, the rental time, the use start time, the scheduled use end time, or available for use times for each of said image processing apparatuses.

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16. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, to display said device data, said display control means ranks said image processing apparatuses based on either the replacement time, the

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use start time, the service life, or the next replacement time for consumable goods for each of said image processing apparatuses.

5 17. An information processing apparatus, which is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

 communication means, for exchanging with said
10 image processing apparatuses device data for said image processing apparatuses; and

 display control means, for arranging said image processing apparatuses and for displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

15 wherein said display control means displays device data for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

 18. An information processing apparatus according
20 to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

25 19. An information processing apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising: condition selection means, for selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein said display control means displays device data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected by said condition selection means.

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20. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising: apparatus selection means, for selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed by said display control means,

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wherein said display control means displays, on said display unit, device data for said image processing apparatus selected by said apparatus selection means.

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21. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said device data are data reflecting the capacities of said image processing apparatus.

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22. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus for which the physical distance separating said image processing apparatus and said information processing apparatus does not exceed a reference range.

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23. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus having a printing status of ready.

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24. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus that has a facsimile function.

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25. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus that has a scanner function.

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26. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus that has a finisher function.

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27. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus for which the evaluated reliability is not less than that represented by the lower limit of a reference range.

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28. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of paper jams does not
5 exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

29. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said display control means displays device data only for an image processing
10 apparatus for which the number of the errors does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

30. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein, based on whether double-sided or
15 single-sided printing is enabled, or on an available paper size or an available recording sheet that is to be handled, said display control means displays only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition.

31. An information processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein, based on one determining factor, the direction, the thickness, the color or the material of a recording sheet, said display control means
25 displays only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition.

32. A network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

5 communication means, for communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

 storage means, for storing said device data obtained with said communication means;

10 transmission means, for, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said
15 storage means;

 request means, for issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

20 display control means, for, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and for displaying
25 corresponding device data on a display unit,

 wherein, to display said device data, said display control means assigns ranks for said image processing

apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

33. A network system according to claim 32,
wherein, to display said device data, said display
5 control means arranges said image processing
apparatuses in the descending order or in the ascending
order of said ranks to which said image processing
apparatuses have been assigned.

10 34. A network system according to claim 32,
further comprising: condition selection means, for
selecting one of a plurality of conditions,
wherein, to display said device data, said display
control means ranks said image processing apparatuses
15 based on said condition selected by said condition
selection means.

35. A network system according to claim 32,
further comprising: apparatus selection means, for
20 selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for
which said device data are displayed by said display
control means,

wherein said display control means displays, on
said display unit, device data for said image
25 processing apparatus selected by said apparatus
selection means.

36. A network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

5 communication means, for communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

 storage means, for storing said device data obtained with said communication means;

10 transmission means, for, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing means to said second information processing means of said device data stored in said storage means;

15 request means, for the issuing to said first information processing apparatus of a request by said second information processing apparatus for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

 display control means, for, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and for displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

20 wherein said display control means displays device data for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

37. A network system according to claim 36,
wherein said display control means displays device data
only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a
condition selected by a user.

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38. A network system according to claim 37,
further comprising: condition selection means, for
selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein said display control means displays device
10 data only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy
said condition that is selected by said condition
selection means.

39. A network system according to claim 36,
15 further comprising: apparatus selection means, for
selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for
which said device data are displayed by said display
control means,

wherein said display control means displays, on
20 said display unit, device data for said image
processing apparatus selected by said apparatus
selection means.

40. An information processing method for an
25 information processing apparatus, which is capable of
communicating with a plurality of image processing
apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

5 a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

10 wherein, at said display control step, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user, and said corresponding device data are displayed.

41. An information processing method according to claim 40, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing
15 apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

42. An information processing method according to
20 claim 40, further comprising: a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said
25 condition selection step.

43. An information processing method according to

claim 40, further comprising: an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step,

5 wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

10 44. An information processing method for an information processing apparatus, which is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

15 a communication step, of exchanging with said image processing apparatuses device data for said image processing apparatuses; and

 a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

20 wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

25 45. An information processing method according to claim 44, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a

user.

46. An information processing method according to claim 45, further comprising: a condition selection
5 step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

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47. An information processing method according to claim 44, further comprising: an apparatus selection
step, of selecting one of said image processing
apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at
15 said display control step,

wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

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48. An information processing method, for a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

25 a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

49. An information processing method according to claim 48, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in

the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

50. An information processing method according to
5 claim 48, further comprising: a condition selection
step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,
wherein, at said display control step, to display
said device data, said image processing apparatuses are
ranked based on said condition selected at said
10 condition selection step.

51. An information processing method according to
claim 48, further comprising: an apparatus selection
step, of selecting one of said image processing
15 apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at
said display control step,

wherein, at said display control step, device data
for said image processing apparatus selected at said
apparatus selection step are displayed on said display
20 unit.

52. An information processing method, for a
network system wherein a first information processing
apparatus and a second information processing apparatus
25 are connected via a network, comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a
plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain

device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

5 a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

10 a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

15 a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

20 wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

53. An information processing method according to
25 claim 52, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a

user.

54. An information processing method according to claim 53, further comprising: a condition selection
5 step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

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55. An information processing method according to claim 52, further comprising: an apparatus selection
step, of selecting one of said image processing
apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at
15 said display control step,

wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

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56. A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program executed by an information processing apparatus that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing
25 apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning

said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

5 wherein, at said display control step, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user, and said corresponding device data are displayed.

10 57. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image
15 processing apparatuses have been assigned.

58. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, a graph is used to display said device data.

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59. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein,
25 at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition

selection step.

60. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein said information processing
5 program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control
10 step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

61. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein said device data are capacity data
15 for said image processing apparatus.

62. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing
20 apparatuses are ranked based on the physical distance separating said information processing apparatus and each of said image processing apparatuses.

63. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing
25 apparatuses are ranked based on the printing speed of

each of said image processing apparatuses.

64. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the reliability of each of said image processing apparatuses.

65. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the number of paper jams that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

66. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the number of errors that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

67. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the printing cost incurred when using each of said image processing

apparatuses.

68. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 67, wherein said printing cost is the cost per sheet output by each of said image processing apparatuses.

69. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 67, wherein said printing cost is an initial cost or an operating cost for each of said image processing apparatuses.

70. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on either the sales time, the purchase time, the rental time, the use start time, the scheduled use end time, or available for use times for each of said image processing apparatuses.

71. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 56, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on either the replacement time, the use start time, the service life, or the next replacement time for consumable goods for each of said image processing apparatuses.

72. A computer-readable memory medium which stores an information processing program executed by an information processing apparatus that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, said information processing program comprising:

a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

73. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

74. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 73, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed

only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

5 75. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein said information processing program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

10 76. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein said device data are data reflecting the capacities of said image processing apparatus.

15 77. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the physical distance separating said image processing apparatus and said information processing apparatus does not exceed a reference range.

20 78. A computer-readable memory medium according

to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step,
device data are displayed only for an image processing
apparatus having a printing status of ready.

5 79. A computer-readable memory medium according
to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step,
device data are displayed only for an image processing
apparatus that has a facsimile function.

10 80. A computer-readable memory medium according
to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step,
device data are displayed only for an image processing
apparatus that has a scanner function.

15 81. A computer-readable memory medium according
to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step,
device data are displayed only for an image processing
apparatus that has a finisher function.

20 82. A computer-readable memory medium according
to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step,
device data are displayed only for an image processing
apparatus for which the evaluated reliability is not
less than that represented by the lower limit of a
25 reference range.

83. A computer-readable memory medium according

to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of paper jams does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

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84. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of the errors does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

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85. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition is displayed based on whether double-sided or single-sided printing is enabled, or on an available paper size or an available recording sheet that is to be handled.

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86. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 72, wherein, at said display control step, only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition is displayed based on one determining factor, the direction, the thickness, the color or the material of a recording sheet.

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87. A computer-readable memory medium which

stores an information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, said information

5 processing program comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

10 a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

15 a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

20 a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, to display

said device data, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

5 88. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image
10 processing apparatuses have been assigned.

 89. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step,
15 of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition selection step.

20 90. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 87, wherein said information processing program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses
25 for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus

selected at said apparatus selection step are displayed on said display unit.

91. A computer-readable memory medium which
5 stores an information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, said information processing program comprising:

10 a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

15 a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said
20 storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

25 a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information

processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data
5 are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

92. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 91, wherein, at said display control step,
10 device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

93. A computer-readable memory medium according
15 to claim 92, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said
20 condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

94. A computer-readable memory medium according to claim 91, wherein said information processing
25 program further comprises an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said

display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means are displayed on said display unit.

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95. An information processing program executed by an information processing apparatus that is capable of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

10 a communication step, of exchanging, with said image processing apparatuses, device data concerning said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

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wherein, at said display control step, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user, and said corresponding device data are displayed.

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96. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image processing apparatuses have been assigned.

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97. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, a graph is used to display said device data.

5 98. An information processing program according to claim 95, further comprising a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are
10 ranked based on said condition selected at said condition selection step.

 99. An information processing program according to claim 95, further comprising an apparatus selection
15 step, of selecting one of said image processing apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at said display control step, wherein, at said display control step, device data for said image processing
apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are
20 displayed on said display unit.

 100. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein said device data are capacity data for said image processing apparatus.

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 101. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to

display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the physical distance separating said information processing apparatus and each of said image processing apparatuses.

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102. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the printing speed of each of said image processing apparatuses.

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103. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the reliability of each of said image processing apparatuses.

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104. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the number of paper jams that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

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105. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing

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apparatuses are ranked based on the number of errors that have occurred in each of said image processing apparatuses.

5 106. An information processing program according to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on the printing cost incurred when using each of said image processing
10 apparatuses.

 107. An information processing program according to claim 106, wherein said printing cost is the cost per sheet output by each of said image processing
15 apparatuses.

 108. An information processing program according to claim 106, wherein said printing cost is an initial cost or an operating cost for each of said image
20 processing apparatuses.

 109. An information processing program according to claim 106, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing
25 apparatuses are ranked based on either the sales time, the purchase time, the rental time, the use start time, the scheduled use end time, or available for use times

for each of said image processing apparatuses.

110. An information processing program according
to claim 95, wherein, at said display control step, to
5 display said device data, said image processing
apparatuses are ranked based on either the replacement
time, the use start time, the service life, or the next
replacement time for consumable goods for each of said
image processing apparatuses.

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111. An information processing program executed
by an information processing apparatus that is capable
of communicating with a plurality of image processing
apparatuses connected to a network, comprising:

15 a communication step, of exchanging, with said
image processing apparatuses, device data concerning
said image processing apparatuses; and

a display control step, of arranging said image
processing apparatuses and of displaying corresponding
20 device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data
are displayed for only one part of said image
processing apparatuses.

112. An information processing program according
to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step,
25 device data are displayed only for image processing

apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

113. An information processing program according
5 to claim 112, further comprising a condition selection
step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,
wherein, at said display control step, device data are
displayed only for image processing apparatuses that
satisfy said condition that is selected at said
10 condition selection step.

114. An information processing program according
to claim 111, further comprising an apparatus selection
step, of selecting one of said image processing
15 apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at
said display control step, wherein, at said display
control step, device data for said image processing
apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means
are displayed on said display unit.

115. An information processing program according
to claim 111, wherein said device data are data
reflecting the capacities of said image processing
apparatus.

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116. An information processing program according
to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step,

device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the physical distance separating said image processing apparatus and said information processing apparatus does not exceed a reference range.

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117. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus having a printing status of ready.

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118. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a facsimile function.

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119. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a scanner function.

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120. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus that has a finisher function.

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121. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step,

device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the evaluated reliability is not less than that represented by the lower limit of a reference range.

5

122. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing apparatus for which the number of paper jams does not
10 exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

123. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for an image processing
15 apparatus for which the number of the errors does not exceed the upper limit of a reference range.

124. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step,
20 only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition is displayed based on whether double-sided or single-sided printing is enabled, or on an available paper size or an available recording sheet that is to be handled.

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125. An information processing program according to claim 111, wherein, at said display control step,

only an image processing apparatus that satisfies a predetermined condition is displayed based on one determining factor, the direction, the thickness, the color or the material of a recording sheet.

5

126. An information processing program executed by a network system wherein a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus are connected via a network, comprising:

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a communication step, of communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain device data for said image processing apparatuses;

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a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said device data obtained at said communication step;

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a transmission step, of, following the receipt of a request from said second information processing apparatus, the transmission by said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus of said device data stored in said storage means;

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a request step, of issuing, to said first information processing apparatus by said second information processing apparatus, a request for said device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device data that are transmitted from said first information

processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

5 wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, ranks are assigned for said image processing apparatuses based on a condition selected by a user.

10 127. An information processing program according to claim 126, wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are arranged in the descending order or in the ascending order of said ranks to which said image
15 processing apparatuses have been assigned.

 128. An information processing program according to claim 126, further comprising a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions,
20 wherein, at said display control step, to display said device data, said image processing apparatuses are ranked based on said condition selected at said condition selection step.

25 129. An information processing program according to claim 126, further comprising an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing

apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at
said display control step, wherein, at said display
control step, device data for said image processing
apparatus selected at said apparatus selection step are
5 displayed on said display unit.

130. An information processing program executed
by a network system wherein a first information
processing apparatus and a second information
10 processing apparatus are connected via a network,
comprising:

a communication step, of communicating with a
plurality of image processing apparatuses to obtain
device data for said image processing apparatuses;

15 a storage step, of storing, in storage means, said
device data obtained at said communication step;

a transmission step, of, following the receipt of
a request from said second information processing
apparatus, the transmission by said first information
20 processing apparatus to said second information
processing apparatus of said device data stored in said
storage means;

a request step, of issuing, to said first
information processing apparatus by said second
25 information processing apparatus, a request for said
device data that are stored in said storage means; and

a display control step, of, based on said device

data that are transmitted from said first information processing apparatus to said second information processing apparatus, arranging said plurality of image processing apparatuses, and of displaying corresponding device data on a display unit,

wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed for only one part of said image processing apparatuses.

10 131. An information processing program according to claim 130, wherein, at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy a condition selected by a user.

15 132. An information processing program according to claim 131, wherein said information processing program further comprises a condition selection step, of selecting one of a plurality of conditions, wherein, 20 at said display control step, device data are displayed only for image processing apparatuses that satisfy said condition that is selected at said condition selection step.

25 133. An information processing program according to claim 130, further comprising an apparatus selection step, of selecting one of said image processing

apparatuses for which said device data are displayed at
said display control step, wherein, at said display
control step, device data for said image processing
apparatus selected at said apparatus selection means
5 are displayed on said display unit.